



# TOWN OF LOS GATOS

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR PRESS RELEASE

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### For Immediate Release:

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## **Greg Larson Named Los Gatos Town Manager**

*Larson Brings 25+ Years of Management Experience and Passion for Public Service*

**LOS GATOS**—The Mayor and Town Council have selected Greg Larson as Town Manager. Larson currently serves as the Director of Planning & Community Development at the City of Santa Cruz and was previously the Chief Deputy Controller & Chief of Staff for the California State Controller's Office. The selection was made after an extensive search to replace Debra Figone, who vacated the position to become City Manager of San Jose.

"I am pleased we have found a successor to continue the legacy of excellent management for our Town," said Mayor Joe Pirzynski. "Greg's depth and breadth of government management experience, passion for public service and desire to preserve the small town charm of Los Gatos make him a perfect fit for our community."

Larson was raised in the small town of Edmonds outside of Seattle, WA, where he earned his Eagle Scout and worked as a day camp and summer camp recreation counselor. He moved to California in 1973 to attend Stanford University, where he received his degree in Political Science and served as co-student body president.

"My years of experience in financial management, economic development, land use planning and environmental protection have prepared me well for this position. I'm excited about returning to Silicon Valley and working to maintain the unique character and leadership role of Los Gatos."

Larson describes himself as the proud "older" dad of Camille, age three, and Cavanaugh, ten months. Larson and his wife Eileen Beaudry live in Santa Cruz and enjoy traveling, biking and outdoor activities.

As Town Manager, Larson will oversee the operations of Town Government, including a full-service Police Department that serves Los Gatos as well as the nearby community of Monte Sereno, a Library that is open seven days a week, Community Development and Planning, Parks and Public Works including Engineering and Capital Improvement Projects, Community Services including a Neighborhood/Senior Center, and internal support departments such as Finance, Information Technology, Clerk/Public Records and Human Resources.



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*Greg Larson Named Los Gatos Town Manager (continued)*

The Town Manager oversees the development and implementation of the Town's Operating and Capital Budgets, for a total budget of \$50 million. The Town is a General Law City and operates under the Council/Manager form of government, a system that combines the policy leadership of elected officials in the form of a Town Council, with the management expertise of a professional manager and staff. There are five elected council members who serve four-year terms to represent the community at large. Each November, the Council elects one of its members to serve as Mayor and Vice Mayor for the year. The town employs approximately 155 employees.

Larson began his career as the Stanford Recreation Center Manager, running indoor and outdoor recreational activities for the campus community. He then consulted on numerous local and statewide political campaigns, including Congressman Norm Mineta and Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley. In 1985, Larson started working for San Jose Mayor Tom McEnery and rose to Budget/Policy Director, Director of Environmental Services and Deputy City Manager. After almost ten years in San Jose, Larson left as an expert in not only budget and public policy, but also in managing environmental-related services such as solid waste, water supply and energy conservation.

In 1994, Larson moved to Arizona as General Manager for Scottsdale, managing planning, zoning and building during a time of explosive growth. Larson was recruited back to California in 1997 to help the City of Milpitas rebuild their management team after an organizational upheaval. It was while he was City Manager of Milpitas that Larson lost his first wife to cancer. This loss motivated Larson to leave Milpitas and join the United Way of Silicon Valley as President and CEO, a post he held for two years. After United Way, Larson re-united with his former Stanford classmate Steve Westly to manage Westly's campaign for State Controller and to supervise the State Controller's Office as Chief of Staff. After the State Controller's Office, Larson accepted the position with Santa Cruz where he presently serves.

Throughout his career, Larson has demonstrated a capacity for creative problem-solving, building service-oriented organizations, and developing strong community collaborations.

Larson will begin his appointment on January 7, 2008.

Cc: Town Council